

REMARKS

This Amendment, filed in response to the Office Action mailed February 12, 2009, is believed to be fully responsive to all issues raised in the Office Action. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner's courtesy for granting the interview with Applicant's counsel on April 15 and April 17, 2009, of which summary is submitted along with this Amendment.

Claims Disposition and Summary of Claim Amendments

Claims 1 and 3-14 are all the claims pending in the instant application. Claims 1 and 4-12 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.142(b), as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Claim 2 was canceled previously.

Solely to compact prosecution, and without prejudice or disclaimer, Applicants herewith cancel withdrawn Claims 1 and 4-12. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue the subject matter in a continuing application.

Claim 3 is amended herewith to remove the terms, "for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease" and "candidate". In addition, Claim 3 is further amended to remove "to give cultured neurons" in step (a) and replace the phrase "cultured neurons" in step (b) with "neuron obtained in step (a)."

Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, at least, at page 3, lines 2-17, at page 20, lines 5-26, and at page 21, lines 1-9.

Claim 14 is added in order to further define the compound recited in Claim 3. Support for the amendment can be found throughout the specification, at least, at page 18 the last paragraph.

No new matter is added.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, Second Paragraph

Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Office Action asserts that Claim 3 is indefinite because meets and bounds of the terms, "to give cultured neurons" in step (a) and "candidate", cannot be ascertained.

In response, Claim 3 is amended herewith to remove the terms, "to give cultured neurons" in step (a) and "candidate", rendering the rejection moot.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested.

Response to Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112, First Paragraph

Claims 3 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as allegedly not enabling for the identification of a drug for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease.

In brief, the Office Action asserts that, while the specification provides enough guidance for performing active steps required by the claims without undue experimentation, the specification does not provide enough guidance for one of ordinary skill in the art to develop compounds as effective drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease with a reasonable expectation of success.

Solely to compact prosecution, and without acquiescing in the rejection, Claim 3 is amended herewith to remove "for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease," rendering the rejection moot.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph is respectfully requested.

Claim 14

Claim 14 recites the types of the compound defined in Claim 3. Such compound is to be subject to the screening method of Claim 3. As Claim 3 is allowable and Claim 14 properly further defines and limits the subject matter of Claim 3, it is also allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number **202-775-7588**.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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